AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An oral pharmaceutical dosage form comprising:

(a) a core material **comprising** [~~that contains~~] a proton pump inhibitor, **at least** one [~~or more~~] alkaline reacting **compound** [~~compound(s)~~] and optionally pharmaceutically acceptable excipients [~~having~~],

(b) a water soluble separating layer, and

(c) **a** [~~an enteric~~] coating layer **comprising at least one enteric polymer,**

wherein, [~~characterized in that~~] the core material is alkaline reacting, and **upon application of the coating layer on the core material,** [~~that~~] the separating layer is [~~being~~] formed in situ [~~during the enteric coating~~] as a water soluble salt **product** between the enteric **polymer** [~~coating layer polymer(s)~~] and the alkaline reacting **compound** [~~compound(s)~~].

2. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the alkaline reacting **compound is** [~~compounds are~~] selected from the group **consisting** of **an** alkaline **reacting** organic **compound** [~~substances~~], **a hydroxide** [~~hydroxides~~] of **an** alkali **metal, an** [~~metals or one of their~~] alkaline **salt** [~~salts~~] of phosphoric acid, **an alkaline salt of** carbonic acid, **an alkaline salt of** [~~or~~] silicic acid, **and** [~~or~~] an alkaline ammonium salt.

3. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the alkaline reacting **compound** [~~substance~~] is **selected from the group consisting of** a hydroxide of an alkali metal, [~~or~~] an alkaline salt of phosphoric acid, **an alkaline salt of** carbonic acid , **an alkaline salt of** [~~or~~] silicic acid, **and** [~~or~~] an alkaline ammonium salt.

4. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the alkaline reacting [~~compound is an alkaline~~] organic **compound is** [~~substance, e.g.~~] an amino acid or a salt thereof [~~, an alkaline amine or a derivative thereof, or an alkaline salt of a weak organic acid~~].

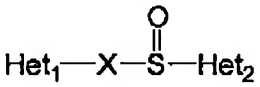
5. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim **3** [~~2~~], wherein the [~~alkaline organic substance is an~~] amino acid **is selected from the group consisting of** [~~, e.g.~~] lysine, arginine, ornitine **and** [~~or~~] histidine [~~, or an alkaline amine or a derivative thereof, e.g. N-methyl-D-glucamine or trometamine~~].

6. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the alkaline reacting **compound is** [~~compounds are~~] present in a concentration of more than 0.1 mmol/g dry ingredients in the alkaline **containing** part of the core material.

7. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the enteric **polymer is a** [~~coating polymer(s) is/are~~] hydroxypropyl cellulose **derivative** [~~derivative(s), e.g. hydroxypropylmethylcellulose acetate succinate~~].

8. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the enteric coating polymer is **a copolymer of methacrylic acid or methylmethacrylate ester** [~~copolymerized methacrylic acid/methacrylic acid methyl esters~~].

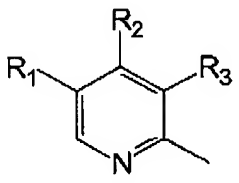
9. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is a compound of the general formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a pure enantiomer thereof in neutral form or in the form of an alkaline salt



I

wherein

Het_1 is



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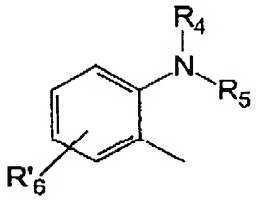
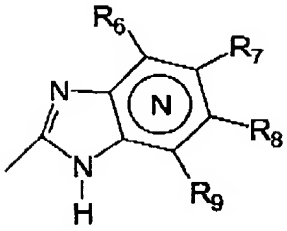


Het_2 is



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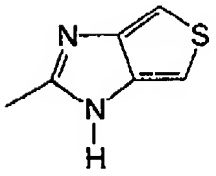
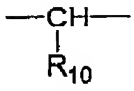


X =



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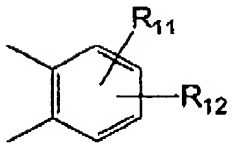

wherein N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 [~~optionally~~] may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from **the group consisting of** hydrogen, alkyl, **unsubstituted** alkoxy, **alkoxy** [~~optionally~~] substituted by fluorine, alkythio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_4 and R_5 are the same or different and selected from hydrogen, alkyl and aralkyl;

R_6' is **selected from the group consisting of** hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, alkyl and alkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from **the group consisting of** hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, **and** trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3 and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from **the group consisting of** hydrogen, halogen, [~~or~~] alkyl and [~~alkyl groups,~~] alkoxy, **which alkyl or alkoxy** [~~groups and moities thereof~~] may be branched **or a** [~~and~~] straight C_1-C_9-**chain** [~~chains~~] or **a** [~~comprise~~] cyclic alkyl [~~groups, for example cycloalkylalkyl~~].

10. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is omeprazole or an alkaline salt thereof.

11. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~]dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is a pure enantiomer of omeprazole or an alkaline salt thereof.

12. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is lansoprazole, one of its pure enantiomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is pantoprazole, one of its pure enantiomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the [~~alkaline reacting~~] core material is **in the form of** individual pellets [~~intended for a capsule formulation or a tableted multiple unit dosage form~~].

15. (Currently amended) **The** [~~A~~] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the [~~alkaline reacting~~] core material is a tablet.

16. (Currently amended) **The** [A] dosage form according to claim **14** [1], wherein individually enteric coated pellets are compressed into a tableted multiple unit dosage form.

17. A process for the preparation of an oral, enteric coated pharmaceutical dosage form comprising **the steps of:**

forming a core material **comprising** [that contains] a proton pump inhibitor, **at least** one [or more] alkaline reacting compounds and optionally pharmaceutically acceptable excipients**, and**

applying a coating layer comprising at least one enteric polymer so as to surround the core material thereby forming in situ [having a water soluble] separating layer **as a water soluble product between the alkaline compound and the enteric polymer** [and an enteric coating layer characterized in that an alkaline reacting core material is prepared and coated with an enteric coating polymer wherein a separating layer between the core material and the enteric coating layer is formed in situ by a reaction between the enteric coating polymer(s) and the alkaline reacting compound(s) in the core material during the application of the enteric coating onto the alkaline reacting core material].

18. (Canceled) An oral, pharmaceutical dosage form comprising a proton pump inhibitor as defined in any of claims 1-16 for use in inhibiting gastric acid secretion in mammals and man.

19. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting gastric acid secretion **comprising** [in mammals and man by] administering [to a host in need thereof a dosage form comprising] a therapeutically effective **amount of a dosage form** [dose of a proton pump inhibitor] as defined in any of claims 1-16 **to a patient in need thereof**.

20. (Canceled) Use of an oral pharmaceutical dosage form defined in any of claims 1-16 for the manufacture of a medicament useful in the treatment of gastric acid related diseases.

21. (New) The dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the alkaline reacting organic compound is an alkaline amine or a derivative thereof.

22. (New) The dosage form according to claim 21, wherein the derivative of the alkaline amine is N-methyl-D-glucamine or trometamine.

23. (New) The dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the alkaline reacting organic compound is an alkaline salt of a weak organic acid.

24. (New) The dosage form according to claim 7, wherein the hydroxypropyl cellulose derivative is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose acetate succinate.